1	2	3
8.	Regional Engineering Colleges	Overseas Development Agency, U.K.
9.	Intergrated Child Development Scheme.	World Bank
10.	Assistance to 47 ICDS Projects in Tamil Nadu	Govt. of Sweden

Sunderban As National River Path

2791. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are going to recognise the river path of Sunderban as National river path; and

(b) if so, the details thereof the the necessary steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). The International Steamer route in the Sunderbans between India and Bangladesh has been identified by the National Transport Policy Committee (1980) for declaration as a National Waterway. The approximate route length of this stretch from Rangfala Channel to the Baharikhal-Raimangal river confluence is 200 Kms. An Environmental Impact Assessment and preparation of an Environmental Management Plan are in Progress. After the studies are completed, necessary steps to declare this stretch as National Waterway will be taken.

Mortality Rate of Girls

2792. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether mortality rate among girls is increasing relatively to boys of the similar age;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) As per information available through Sample Registration System of the Registrar General of India there has been a declining trend in infact (O-1 years) and child (0-4 Years) mortality rates over the years. While there was a marginal increase in the child (0-4 years) mortality rate for girls in 1992 has compared to 1991 there has been a considerable decline in this rate for girls in 1993.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

New Bridges on N.Hs. in West Bengal

2793. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) the details of the proposals for construction of new bridges on National Highways in West Bengal pending with the Government for approval for the last three years; and

(b) the action being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : (a) No such proposals are pending with the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Vessels by Kuwaiti Authorities

2794. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian Registered Sailing Vessels that were impounded in the months of April-May 1996 by Kuwaiti Authorities;

(b) whether crew members of the detained Indian vessels were released, but their vessels were offered for auction; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to get these vessels released?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No such impounding has been reported by Embassy of India. Kuwait during April-May 1996.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Court Martialling Cases in Armed Forces

2795. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of court-martialling cases occurred in the Armed Forces during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the system of court martialling is grossly one-sided and denying natural justice to the accused; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to rectify the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a)

Year	Number of Court Martial cases occurred in the Armed Forces
1993	1856
1994	1671
1995	1486

(b) and (c). Under the Army/Navy/Air Force Acts a very fair system for dispensation of justice has been

provided. It generally conforms to the procedure in the Criminal Procedure Code (Law of the Land). Pertinently, the military judicial system is fair not only to the accused but also to the victim and the organisation.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations

2796. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the proposal for acquiring of Jinha House in Mumbai for giving boost to the cultural activities of Indian Council for Cultural Relations;

(b) whether functioning of Regional Centres in India and cultural centres set up abroad has been reviewed recently and details of significant achievements, shortcomings observed thereon;

(c) whether the Government propose to restructure/ expand/strengthen the existing network of ICCR - both within the country and abroad: and

(d) if so, the details of decisions taken/proposals under consideration to upgrade and strengthen the network for cultural diplomacy through ICCR and additional funds provided therefor during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) One of the proposals that has been made for Jinnah House is that it be maintained by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations as a cultural complex. The various proposals remain under consideration.

(b) The Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs had undertaken a detailed review of the functioning of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and their report was presented to Parliament on 19.12.95. The Committee's recommendations are under appropriate implementation by the ICCR.

(c) and (d). Steps have been taken to upgrade and modernise the infrastructure of the Council's Headquarters and Regional Offices in India. The Cultural Centre in Trinidad & Tobago will be made operational this year. Further Proposals for opening new Cultural Centres are also under consideration.

Steps have also been taken to increase the resources available to ICCR. The budgetary allocation for ICCR were increased from Rs.15 crores during 1994-95 to Rs.25 crores in 1995-96.

Lift Irrigation Schemes

2797. SHRIMATI M. PARVATI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are aware that for the benefit of small and marginal farmers in Ongole Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh there are no lift irrigation schemes at work;

(b) whether Government are also aware that because of scarcity of rainfall in this area the economic conditions of the small and marginal farmers are miserable;

(c) if so, whether Union Government propose to allocate some funds to them under the centrally sponsored schemes to enable them to take up lift irrigation schemes and better their economic condition; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d). There are thirty six lift irrigation schemes under execution in Ongole Parliamentary Constituency. Additional forty schemes are pending for want of funds. Because of scercity of rainfall in the area, crops of small and marginal farmers have been reported to be affected. Under centrally sponsored scheme, (Integrated Rural Development Programme) subsidy amounting to Rs.83.665 lakh has been allotted to the Lift irrigation schemes for the year 1996-97 in the Ongole Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Government Schools in U.P.

2798. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Government schools in Uttar Pradesh alongwith the number of teachers working therein;

(b) whether there is shortage of teachers in these schools;

(c) if so, the number of posts lying vacant; and

(d) the time by which the Government propose to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Shortage of Medicine

2799. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government hospitals in Delhi are facing shortage of medicines and other equipments including those required for performing operations;

(b) if so, whether any survay has been made in that regard and if so, the outcome thereof hospital-wise;

(c) the steps taken to meet the shortages of medicines and equipments;

(d) whether the hospitals in the States are also similarly hit by shortage of supplies of medicines and equipments; and